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saw it fall compared notes, it was ascertained that at least one or two minutes elapsed between its fall and the sound of the explosion. The sound of the explosion was so loud that many who were sleeping were aroused. They thought that the powder magazine had exploded.—S. F. *Chronicle*, March 3.

DEATH OF JOSEPH A. DONOHUE.

JOSEPH A. DONOHUE, a life member of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific and founder of its Comet-Medal, died in San Francisco on April 5th, 1895, at the age of 69 years. Mr. DONOHUE had been a resident of California since its early days (1850). Until 1861 he was engaged in mercantile business, and since that time he was the head of the DONOHUE-KELLY Banking Company of San Francisco. He took much interest in the establishment of the Astronomical Society and in the founding of the medal which bears his name, although he was too busy a man to have more than a literary interest in science. E. S. H.

THE STUDY OF ATMOSPHERIC CURRENTS BY THE AID OF LARGE
TELESCOPES, AND THE EFFECT OF SUCH CURRENTS
ON THE QUALITY OF THE SEEING.

Mr. A. E. DOUGLAS, astronomer in the LOWELL Observatory, Arizona, has printed in the *American Meteorological Journal*, Vol. II, p. 397, an article with the above title. It is a study of the air currents which are to be seen within the tubes of large telescopes, and which are such enemies to the best definition. All users of large telescopes are familiar with the phenomenon. Dr. HENRY DRAPER, somewhere about the year 1878, commenced a study of it; but nothing has been printed on the subject, I believe, until the article by Mr. DOUGLAS, except the paper by VENTOSA (*Amer. Meteor. Jour.*, Vol. 7, page 89), on a method of determining the direction of the wind by observations of the undulations at the margins of the discs of the heavenly bodies. The question is too special to be treated here, but attention is called to this interesting paper in order that those more especially concerned may consult it. Copies of the *Journal* may be obtained from GINN & Co., 7 Tremont Place, Boston, for thirty cents.

E. S. H.